

Welcome

Join in saying the underlined words in **bold** type together.

Prayer of Gathering

From Psalm 52:8 Like a green olive tree in the House of God "Prayer Handbook 2013" p.75

1. With roots in the soil
Of past generations

**We worship you,
Living, loving God.**

2. Through layers of soil
At times fertile,
At other times depleted,

**We reach for experience and
Sustenance from saints of old.**

3. And in our own time, we offer to you, fresh shoots and new ideas
Borne upon branches shaped and gnarled by life,

And pray our worship shall be to you fruitful, sweet and rich. Amen

Prayer of Approach and Praise *Adapted from Roots 2 July 2017*

We worship you with our words, proclaiming your faithfulness.

We worship you with our music, singing of your steadfast love.

We worship you in our prayers, blessing our communities.

Lord we worship you with all our might

So you shine through our thoughts, words and deeds. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *adapted from "Roots" 3 May 2015*

We thank you that rooted and united in your son, Jesus Christ,

Our diversity can flourish,

The fruit of our prayers can ripen,

The needs of the world can be nourished,

And the Church can reach out to those who are afraid. **Amen**

Pause for silence & reflection as we prepare ourselves for prayer.

Prayer of Confession *adapted from Roots 2 July 2017*

We confess that we have not always given of our best.

We have not always lived as people of faith –

In welcoming the stranger or showing kindness to our neighbour,

In doing those things we ought to do, and choosing our words carefully,

And putting our trust in you when the going gets tough.

Grant us your pardon, O God.

Too often our pride separates us from you

And our self-congratulation blinds us to our failings.

We fail to acknowledge you as the true source and enabler.

Forgive us Lord. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Roots 9 July 2017*

Jesus said, "Come to me, you who are weary ..."

God grant me the strength to keep living.

Jesus said, "Come to me, you who are carrying heavy burdens..."

God grant me the courage to share my worries with you.

Jesus said, "Come to me and learn from me."

God grant me ears to hear. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Prayerbook 2015 p.73*

We pray for all who speak out fearlessly for truth and justice

Knowing that they may pay a heavy price.

Be with them Lord, as inspiration and friend.

We pray for those who recognise what is just and true but fail to speak out
And succumb to pressures from others and fear of consequences for themselves

Be with them Lord, as encourager and beacon of truth.

We pray for the friends and families who are grieving

For those who are in prison or dead because they stood up for Justice and Truth.

Be with them all Lord.

And Lord, give us grace in our daily lives

So that we may not be afraid to be truth-tellers,

Acting as your voice and your conscience in the communities around us. Amen

2. *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.76*

We pray for all people who have lost their way:

Those in dark and confusing places...

Those who have betrayed a relationship...

Those who are alone and afraid...

Those who live with bitterness and guilt...

Lord, untie the knots that bind them,

Release the burdens that they carry,

Awaken them from dread of living into a loving world. **Amen.**

3. Lord, move in the hearts of young people who are being brain-washed

To carry-out evil deeds against innocent people.

Support their anguished and bewildered families and the victims of terrorist

attacks. **Amen**

4. *Adapted from Roots July 2017*

We pray for the future of our nation.
Be present in our newly elected House of Commons
So that, as the MPs act, they remember the importance
Of truth, compassion, fairness and justice in our society.
We pray for those with entrenched views that prejudice them
So that they do not try to see another point of view.
We pray for those who just follow the crowd
And follow the path of least resistance.
We pray for leaders who have to make decisions
About how to deal with our future outside the EU.
We pray that those in positions of influence who give advice on policies
May work for the greater good. **Amen.**

5. Lord, we pray for our Churches and their congregational lives.
Guide those in the Synod who are charged with leading changes in structures
To make the church more effective. **Amen**

6. Lord, we pray for those in our Church congregations who are unwell.
We name in our hearts those we know who are suffering,
those who are convalescent and those awaiting medical treatment. **PAUSE**
Lord, bring them healing and hope.
Help us to show practical friendship when possible.

We pray for those who mourn.
Lord, bring them your comfort and our friendship. Amen

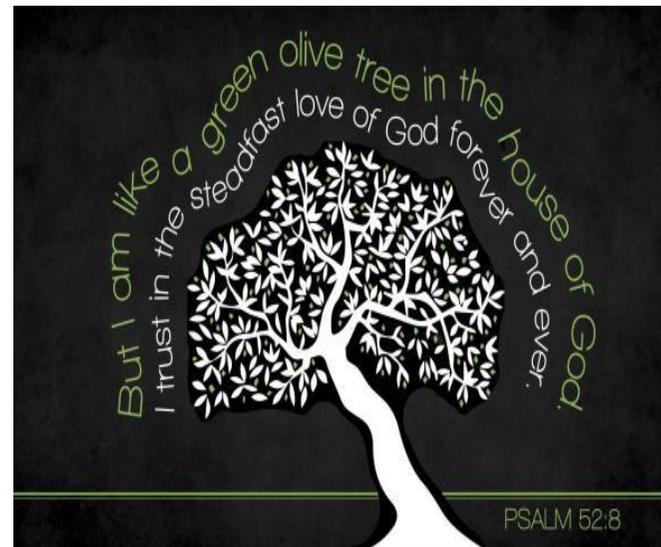
Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND
Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,
for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World
either in open prayer
or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots July 2017*

Lord, give us the impetus to grow in practical faith,
Give us the will to rise and face the day.
Enable us to taste the feast of life for our spirits,
But also, keep us gentle and humble in heart
As we go out and about.
Help us to look for "the light of Christ" in everyone we meet
So we find welcoming strangers easier. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



To pray for the work of our Church and the life of our community

Wednesday 5th 11.15a.m. & Wednesday 19th July 8p.m. 2017

Number 45

St John's URC Northwood & St Martins URC South Oxhey